A Broadside Issued at Mobile

(now in Alabama) in 1763, but printed on the island of Jamaica in the same year. Reproduced in facsimile from the original in the William L. Clements Library, with a note on the authorship and production of this unrecorded imprint by Douglas C. McMurtrie

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THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR between England and France was terminated by the Treaty of Paris, ratified March 10, 1763. In the closing years of that struggle, Spain had come to the aid of France, with the result that the Spanish domain in North America, as well as the French, was laid on the council table for disposition. The Treaty of Paris determined that France should forever lose her vast American possessions. Canada and the country between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi were surrendered to England, and the vaguely defined but immense Province of Louisiana, including New Orleans, was yielded to Spain. To offset this transfer to Spain, England received, by the terms of the treaty, the Spanish territory known as Florida. With this, England also received a portion of Louisiana extending eastward along the Gulf Coast from the Mississippi River.

A document which bears upon a minor incident among these momentous transfers of territory has been found among the Gage papers now in the possession of the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. It is a copy of a printed proclamation, in French, to the inhabitants of that part of Louisiana lying east of the Mississippi, issued by Robert Farmar, commander of the British forces detailed to take possession of the newly ceded territory. This proclamation was issued at Mobile, which was identified therein as "the present seat of the English Government in Louisiana," and was dated in 1763, but with blank spaces for filling in the month and day.

Examination of this broadside at once aroused speculation as to where it was printed, since there was no press at Mobile in 1763. It could not have been printed in New Orleans, since

Denis Braud, the first printer there, did not receive the equipment with which to work until 1764. A conjecture that it might possibly have been printed in New York also had to be rejected as highly improbable.

Fortunately, however, there exists a precise and unequivocal statement as to the place of printing this broadside proclamation. On January 24, 1764, Major Farmar directed a letter to the Secretary at War, in London, containing thirty-six enclosures. No. 20 of the enclosures was a copy of the printed proclamation in question. Still more interesting was No. 22, which was a document containing "Major Farmar's contingent account . . . cash expended . . . for the service of the Goverment [sic] at Mobille . . ." In this cash account, under 1763, among a number of items of expenses incurred while Farmar and his troops were in Jamaica, was the following:

To Translating and Printing Manifestos to Publish on my arrival at Mobille	£7 6s 10d

We thus know not only the place where the proclamation was printed, but also its cost, including its translation from English into French. The Farmar papers which contain this interesting bit of typographic history have been published in Volume I of the *Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1763-1766,* Nashville, 1911, with the item concerning the proclamation on page 65.

The date of the printing is determined by the fact that Farmar was in Jamaica from the end of August until about the middle of September, 1763. After a stop in Pensacola, Farmar arrived at Mobile on October 18, 1763, and the proclamation was undoubtedly published to the people of Mobile on that date or

PAR MONSIEUR

ROBERT FARMAR,

Majeur du 34me Regiment, & Commandant des Troupes de ſa MAJESTE' BRITANIQUE, dans la Louiſiane, &c. &c. &c.

Comme, par le Traité definitif de Paix ſigné le 10.me de Fevrier, & Ratifié le 10.me de Mars 1763. Cette Partie de la Louiſiane ſituée à main gauche, ou du Côté Oriental de la Riviere de Miſsiſsipi, depuis ſa Source juſqu'à la Riviere d'Iberville, & à travers des Lacs de Maurepas & de Pontchartain, juſqu'à la Mer, eſt cedée en pleine poſſeſsion à ſa MAJESTE' BRITANIQUE.

PAR ces preſentes il eſt ordonné, & requis de touttes Perſonnes dans le Manîment de l'adminiſtration du droit Civil, de ceſſer touttes procedures en procès commencées, & defendu de pourſuivre dorèſnavant en procès, ou playdoiries, dans la forme & pratique des Loix de France, les habitants preſents etant devenus ſujets aux Loix d'Angleterre, par leſquelles ils ſeront paiſiblement protegés dans leurs droits & propretés, & à fin que le Cours de la Juſtice ne puiſſe ſoufrir aucun delay ou retardement, touttes cauſes, procès, & ſujets de plainte ſeront preſentés, par ecrit au Commandant à Moibille, & touttes diſputes triviales à l'Officier Commandant des Poſtes circonvoiſins aux parties offenſées.

Les Habitants par ces preſentes peuvent être aſſurés d'être protegés dans leurs droits, & propretés, & de n'être point, ſans ſujet, en aucune façon moleſtés ou incommodés par les Troupes, & on s'attend que, de leur part, ils en agiront de même envers les Troupes, leur fourniſſant les choſes dont ils auront beſoin, & que le pais produit, pour leſquelles on leur payera en Argent comptant.

Pour prevenir, autant qu'il ſera poſſible, touttes fraudes, & diſputes, par rapport aux achats, ou ventes de terres, & propretés reelles, tous les biens en terres ſeront regiſtrés dans l'eſpace d'un An après la publication de ces preſentes, & il ne ſera point permis de diſpoſer d'aucunes terres, ou autres biens reels, juſqu'à ce que les titres & teneurs des dits biens puiſſent être verifiés par leur enregiſtrements, & approuvés par l'Officier Commandant.

Ceux d'entre les habitants Francois qui feront choix de reſter dans leurs diverſes habitations, & de vivre ſous les Loix d'Angleterre, & ſous le gouvernement de ſa MAJESTE' BRITANIQUE, deveront, auſſiſtôt qu'il ſera poſſible, ſe rendre à Moibille, pour y prêter ſerment de fidelité. Ceux qui ne voudront point s'y conformer dans l'eſpace de trois mois après la date de ces preſentes, ſeront dépoſſedés, & obligés de quitter cette partie du pais cedée à la Nation Angloiſe. Ceux qui s'y conformeront ſeront protegés dans leur propretés, & droits religieux, comme il eſt ſtipulé par le traité de paix, iceux ſe comportant paiſiblement, ſans tramer aucun projet au prejudice des autres ſujets de ſa MAJESTE' BRITANIQUE, ou de ſon gouvernment: Mais touttes les fois qu'on decouvrira qu'ils auront tâché de donner aux Indiens de mauvais prejugés deſavantageux aux Anglois, ou agiront en aucune façon, au prejudice, ou faiſant des attentats pour renverſer le gouvernement Anglois, on procedera contre eux comme revoltés.

Ceux d'entre les habitants qui ſeront portés d'inclination à quitter leurs preſentes habitations, & ſe retirer de cette partie du païs, auront un ſûr & ſauf tranſport de leurs effets, comme limité dans le traité de paix.

Ces preſentes ſeront luës dans l'Egliſe de chaque paroiſſe par le Curé; ou quiconque officiera pour lui, quatre Dimanches ſucceſſifs, & ſeront affichées aux portes des Egliſes, & dans touttes les places publiques, âfinque perſonne n'en pretende ignorance.

DONNEES à Moibille le preſent ſiege du Gouvernement Anglois dans la Louiſiane.
ce jour de 1763.

immediately thereafter. As Farmar did not know while in Jamaica the exact date on which he was to arrive at Mobile, the month and day were necessarily left blank in the printed broadside.

I gratefully acknowledge obligation to Dr. Randolph G. Adams, of the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, for permission to reproduce this broadside, and also to Miss Elizabeth G. Steere, of the same library, who made known to me the pertinent details of the Farmar papers as published in the *Mississippi Territorial Archives.*

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